FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 SEPTEMBER 1985

Terrorist Attacks in Cyprus, Rome, Jerusalem

The three Palestinian gunmen who seized an Israeli yacht in the Larnaca marina surrendered to police after killing their two hostages, Nicosia radio announced. An anonymous caller to AFP's Jerusalem office had earlier claimed responsibility for the seizure of the yacht on behalf of the Palestinian group "Force 17," asserting that the operation was aimed at securing the release of Palestinians captured by the Israeli Navy and that the crew of the Israeli boat was on a spy mission. The Israeli Government subsequently responded to the events in Larnaca by warning that the murderers and those who sent them will not escape retribution and that Israel will take all measures necessary to safeguard the well-being and security of its citizens, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israeli deputy foreign minister issued an announcement calling on Britain to reconsider its planned talks with PLO officials in light of the "abominable murder committed by PLO members in Larnaca," adding that Force 17 is a PLO terrorist group directly subordinate to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The announcement, which was carried by ITIM, expressed regret that the British prime minister's "hypocrisy" over terrorism is encouraging the PLO to continue "murderous acts of sabotage" against Jews and Israelis. Nevertheless, the PLO office in Nicosia denied that the gunmen who seized the yacht were PLO members and condemned terrorist actions on Cypriot territory, Nicosia radio noted.

In Rome, police arrested a young Palestinian member of the revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims who admitted responsibility for a bomb attack on the British Airways office that injured 15 people, the Rome police commissioner disclosed at a press conference reported by AFP. In another terrorist incident, a bomb exploded in a bus station near Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital 26 September, injuring one person, according to Jerusalem radio.

Oman-USSR

Oman and the Soviet Union have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, TASS announced, adding that this is a first important step toward developing bilateral relations with a view to strengthening peace and international security. The agreement was reached during Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's 21 September meeting with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah in New York.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes carried out further raids on Khark Island 25 and 26 September, according to Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Monitored Iranian media have not been observed to report the latest raids. Gulf sources cited by the Bahraini paper *GULF DAILY NEWS* said that the attacks havecut the loading capacity at Khark to about 750,000 barrels per day from a design capacity of over 6.5 million barrels per day. The sources added that Iran is setting up a new oil export outlet northeast of Khark which would be more easily protected by air defenses coordinated at Bushehr. Meanwhile, TANJUG cited a Majlis member's statement to *ETTELA'AT* that Iran is facing the "gravest crisis" which may force it to run the country without oil revenue.

As for land battles, an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA claimed that Iranian forces killed more than 65 Iraqi troops during a 3-hour attack in Sumar during the evening of 24-25 September.

In another development, the head of the French firm Avions Marcel Dassault confirmed that Iraq has ordered 24 of the company's Mirage F-1 fighter jets, AFP reported, and he added that negotiations with Iraq are under way concerning the possible sale of Mirage 2000 aircraft. Iraq has already purchased 89 F-1 bombers from the company, the agency noted.

Iran

Concern Over Lebanon — An Iranian envoy to Damascus gave Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i that expressed Iran's concern over the fighting in Tripoli, Lebanon, and called on Al-Asad to take action to calm the situation, IRNA reported. An Iranian delegation subsequently arrived in Tripoli for talks with Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Tunisia-Libya

A number of parcel bombs were sent to Tunisian information media on 25 September, Tunis radio reported, adding that this follows Libyan official threats against Tunisian media and that the Libyan regime "does not hesitate to continue such practices." The radio noted that the parcels containing explosives were delivered shortly after the arrival and departure of a Libyan diplomat who delivered a diplomatic bag to the Libyan General Commission in Tunis.

Afghanistan

Rebel forces were "resolutely defeated" after DRA forces launched a "major" operation in Khowst and the security situation in the area is now calm, a DRA military spokesman cited by Kabul radio announced.

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Khowst Calm After 'Successful Major Operation'
LD251743 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] As a result of a successful major operation by the DRA Armed Forces, mounted a few days ago in Khowst District, the border has been secured and the noble people of the area have resumed their peaceful life. In this regard, a spokesman of the DRA Armed Forces in Khowst told a BIA correspondent:

[Begin recording] The DRA Government decided to mount a major operation in Khowst District to wipe out a nest of the rebels. To achieve this major objective a very successful operation in Khowst was planned and executed. As a result a very major center of the counterrevolution, not only the rebel center against Khowst District but an anti-state center for the whole Province of Paktia. was eliminated and all depots and the command headquarters at Zhawar were destroyed.

During the operation some 300 assorted weapons were captured, including reactive [as heard] weapons recently obtained by the rebels and used against innocent people. More than 200,000 rounds of ammunition for light weapons and more than 5,000 reactive shells and heavy weapons were destroyed. More than 50 depots were either destroyed or seized by units of the Armed Forces. The rebels were resolutely defeatad. Of course, the rebels made a last ditch effort to defend this major center in Zhawar. However, they could not sustain the shattering blows dealt them by the DRA Armed Forces and, after suffering losses, they were driven back

As you can see for yourselves, the security situation in Khowst District is calm; the people have resumed their peaceful life and daily work. [End recording]

Karmal, Other Officials Address Revolutionary Council
LD252042 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] The first regular session of the year beginning 21 March 1985 of the DRA Revolutionary Council, was held this morning in Delkosha Piace -- headquarters of the Revolutionary Council --chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The agenda of the session included measures on the improvement of work in the leadership (?organs) of the government; activities and accomplishments of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in the interim period between the two sessions of the Revolutionary Council; and support by the DRA Revolutionary Council for the message of the Soviet Union's parliamentary group, addressed to the world's parliamentary delegations, which were comprehensively and carefully considered by the members of the Revolutionary Council. Decisions were made on these matters.

In relation to the improvement of work in the machinery of the government leadership administration, Babrak Kamral delivered a detailed, substantial and instructive speech which comprehensively and critically assessed the work of the machinery of the government leadership administraiton. This speech was enthusiastically received by the members of the Revolutionary Council.

The Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] correspondent reports that Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, then expressed his opinion about the basic report of the session and fully supported Babrak Karmal's speech explaining work methods and activities of the government apparatus and the evolution of the government administrative machinery.

In approving the instructive speech of Babrak Kamral, Minister of High and Vocational Education Burhan Ghaisi, Minister of Transport Sher Jan Mazduryar, and Minister of Commerce Muhammad Khan Jalalar, delivered speeches and gave n assurances to the Revolutionary Council, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and Babrak Karmal that they are following the valuable instructions of Babrak Kamral as a guide to their work and activities.

After the speeches, the draft resolution of the DRA Revolutionary Council on measures to improve the work of the government leadership apparatus, was unanimously approved and endorsed.

The BIA correspondent adds that Brigadier General Gol Aga, vice president of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, then presented a comprehensive report on the second item of the agenda and explained the activities and accomplishments of the DRA Revolutionary Council in the interim period between the two session of the Revolutionary Council during the year beginning 21 March 1985. After the presentation of this report, the draft decree on the activities of the Revolutionary Council Presidium during the interim period was unanimously approved by the members of the Revolutionary Council.

Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization, presented a report supporting the message the USSR parliamentary group addressed to the members of the international parliaments, and expressed full support for the peaceful and humanitarian policy of the Soviet Union in the international field. The DRA Revolutionary Council then unanimously issued a resolution in this respect. The draft message of the DRA Revolutionary Council, (?addressed) to the USSR Supreme Soviet, was then read by Anahita Ratebzad, which was approved by the members of the Revolutionary Council.

The work of the session which began at 0900 ended at 1530 after the concluding speech of Babarak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and after the playing of the DRA national anthem.

This session was also attended by Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the national Fatherland Front Central Council; Haji Mohammed Chamkanai, chairman of the high jirga of the border tribes, officials of the Central Committee's departments, and members

of the DRA Council of Ministers. The full details of the Revolutionary Council session will be broadcast by the mass media.

Council Supports USSR Proposals

LD260607 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] Kabul, September 25, BAKHTAR: The Revolutionary Council (RC) of the DRA has sent a message to the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in which it has supported the constructive proposals put forward by the Soviet Union in ensuring international peace and security.

The message also expresses the firm solidarity of the party and state of the DRA with the message of the USSR parliamentarian group sent to the parliamentarians of other countries of the world manifesting the deep and humanistic concern of the Soviet people regarding the continuation of the arms race and demonstrating their firm inclination for the cause of peace throughout the world.

The Revolutionary Council of the DRA gives its unflinching support to the recent decision of the Soviet Union on the unilateral moratorium of nuclear blasts and it believes that full disarmament calls for the immediate cessation of nuclear tests.

The RC of the DRA regards the rebuffal of foreign interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the complete annihilation of the Afghan bandits as a major factor for ensuring peace and permanent stability in the region.

The RC reiterates that the foreign policy of the DRA is based on the maintainance and consolidation of international peace and security and strives with all its power for the realisation of the call made by the parliamentarian group of the Soviet Union on the prevention of nuclear arms race.

The RC of the DRA declares its full support to the foreign policy pursued by the Soviet Union particularly to those important aspects which were embodied in the recent interview of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CC of the CPSU, offered to American *TIME* magazine.

The RC of the DRA in accordance with the decisions of the Grand National Assembly held in late April and the recent-concluded High Assembly of the Frontier Tribes pay its utmost attention for the consolidation of the friendly traditional relations between the two countries, other socialist countries, national liberation movements and for the expansion of cooperation with other countries for the cause of peace.

Dost Meets With Foreign Ministers in New York

LD252045 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Shah Muhammad Dost, foreign minister affairs and head of the DRA delegation to the 40th session of the UN General Assembly, on 23 September, met separately with the foreign ministers of the GDR and the People's Republic of Hungary. They spoke in detail and exchanged views on the subjects of mutual interest.

At a meeting with the foreign minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the parties held discussions on current international events, the role of the Nonaligned Movement in solving the existing problems, and areas where the two countries might cooperate in the issues raised in the United Nations.

According to another report Shah Muhammad Dost on 24 September met the foreign minister of (?Guinea-Bissau), conversed with him in a friendly and understanding atmosphere, and exchanged views with him on ways to improve and broaden bilateral relations, and to broaden cooperation in the Nonaligned Movement and at the United Nations. They informed each other about the internal situations in their respective countries.

At another meeting with the foreign minister of Sudan, talks were held on the internal situations of the countries, issues relevant to the bilateral relations and current international events.

The minister of foreign affairs also met the Indian minister of state for external affairs. At this meeting they talked about items on the UN agenda. Shah Muhammad Dost also spoke with the Indian minister about the last round of talks between the DRA and Pakistan.

Further Reportage on Punjab Elections

Results Due 26 Sep

BK251403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Moderate to heavy polling took place in the Punjab elections which ended peacefully this evening. Our correspondent says 60 to 70 percent of the total electorate have cast their votes. Reports reaching the election commission say there were heavy turnouts in Patiala, Jullundur and Amritsar cities. Polling was brisk in Rupar and heavy in Hoshiarpur.

Our correspondent says that polling in Patiala and Ludhiana districts began on a dull note but picked up later. As the day progressed and after midday the polling picked up heavily and long queues of men and women were seen in both the urban and rural areas of the state. There were some incidents of scuffles and stone throwing. About 30 percent of the votes had been cast by noon.

The polling was held for 115 assembly and 13 Lok Sabha constituencies. Polling in two assembly constituencies had been countermounded.

Counting of votes would be taken up at 0800 [0230 GMT] tomorrow in nearly 90 centers. The first assembly results are expected by the evening and most of them by tomorrow night. Results of the Lok Sabha poll would come in by tomorrow evening and counting will continue till all the results are announced.

Polling to the Meham and Rohtak by-elections in Haryana also ended this evening peacefully. About 60 to 70 percent of voters have exercised their franchise.

Two Casualities Reported

BK251552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1544 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Reports just in say that one person was stabbed to death in Ludhiana and another admitted to hospital with head injuries in Amritsar in poll clashes in Punjab.

Election Officials Comment

BK251620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Excerpts] About 60 percent of votes were cast in today's polling in the Punjab elections which ended peacefully this evening. This almost touches the voting figure of 63 percent in the 1980 Lok Sabha poll. While details of the polling percentage are still awaited, reports reaching the election commission indicate that there was 60 to 65 percent polling in the Jullundur District, 60 percent in Bhatinda and Amritsar Districts and 55 to 60 in Gurdaspur District.

The deputy election commissioner, Mr V. Ramakrishnan, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that over 70 percent of votes were reported to have been cast in the Batala assembly constituency in Gurdaspur District. There were heavy turnout of voters in Patiala, Jullundur and Amritsar cities.

The election chief, Mr R.K. Trivedi, said in New Delhi this evening that because of the measures taken by the center and the state government the challenge has been adequately met. The country can take pride in the fact that democracy has passed another milestone. He is very happy that there no incident caused him to order adjournment or repoll in this election.

Asked whether there was any resistance, Mr Trivedi said the high turnout itself shows that there was no resistance to the poll. However, in Jenera Singha village in the Batala assembly constituency in Gurdaspur District voters went near the polling station but did not cast their votes to protest the lack of development plans for their village.

The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, said in Chandigarh today that the massive participation of the people of the state in today's poll is a triumph for democracy. He stated it is a fitting reply to the forces of disruption and destabilization. He congratulated the people for their alertness in not allowing mischievous elements to cause trouble.

Turnout Rebuffs Boycott Call

HK260527 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] Amritsar, India Sept 26 (AFP) — Counting of ballots began early today after an election in Punjab State yesterday that analysts said was a rebuff to a boycott call by Sikh separatists. Officials said voting trends would not be known until later today.

Some 55-60 per cent of the electorate voted, slightly fewer than in previous elections, officials in state capital Chandigarh said. Analysts said the number of voters however represented a blow to Sikh separatists, who had urged a boycott of the election of a 117-member state assembly and of 13 state legislators to the federal parliament's lower house.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party was the main contender along with the moderate Sikh Akali Dal Party to win a five-year mandate to rule the northwestern state. More than 10 million people were eligible to vote. Local dailies highlighted the peaceful nature of the polling, which had surprised analysts and officials fearing separatist attacks.

Apart from an attempt on the life of a Congress (I) Party legislator and the death of a party worker in a clash after polling ended the election was largely peaceful.

Akali Dal Takes Early Lead

BK260748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Excerpts] Early trends reports from 23 assembly constituencies of Punjab indicate that the Akali Dal is leading in 14, the Congress-I in 7, the CPI and Bharatiya Janata Party in 1 each.

Early trends are also available for four Lok Sabha constituencies. Congress-I candidates are leading in Jullundur and Amritsar, while Akali Dal nominees are ahead in Sangrur and Bhatinda.

Five New Congress-I General Secretaries Appointed

BK260344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] The Congress-I president has appointed five new general secretaries of the party. They are Mrs Maragatham Chandra Shekar, Mr Ahmed Patel, Mr Tarun Gogoi, Mr Oscar Fernandes, and Mr Jitender Prasad.

Two general secretaries — Mr Srikant Verma and Mr Dalvir Singh — have resigned. Two others — Mr Ghani Khan Chaudhury and Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai — have joined the union Council of Ministers.

The working president, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, told newsmen that Mr G. K. Moopanar, Mr A.K. Anthony, and Mr R.L. Bhatia will continue as general secretaries. He said Mr Sita Ram Kesari will continue to hold the treasurer's post.

Army Takes Over Security Control of Pakistan Border

BK240955 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] Rajkot, Sept. 14 — The entire Indo-Pak border from Lakhpat in Kutch District of Gujarat to Srinagar in Jammmu and Kashmir has been handed over to the Army from Sept. 1.

The step has been taken following apprehension of infiltration of extremists, who are believed to be camping in Pakistan, in view of the coming elections to the Punjab Assembly.

DIG [deputy insector general] north Saurashtra range, C. P. Singh said here today that BSF [Border Security Force] jawans guarding the border had not been withdrawn but have been put under the control of the Army.

The Army will control the entire strip of 80 km land running along the border and incidents taking place in this area would be investigated by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation], instead of police, Mr Singh said.

The Indian Navy and Coast Guard were monitoring the movements in sea from Okha and Jamnagar bases, he said.

Sixth Round of Talks With PRC To Begin 4 Nov

BK241619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] The sixth round of official level talks between India and China is to be held in New Delhi from 4 to 11 November this year. This was officially announced today.

The last round of Sino-Indian talks was held in Beijing in September 1984.

CPI-M Delegation Leaves for USSR Visit

BK241020 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] A five-member CPI-M delegation led by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, left for Moscow today on a week-long tour of the Soviet Union. During its stay, the delegation is expected to hold discussions with Communist party leaders in the Soviet Union. Earlier, Mr Basu called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Nepal's Attitude Toward Tarai People Criticized

BK230816 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 85 p 9

[Editorial: "Royal Visit"]

[Text] As neighbours and friends, India and Nepal find it essential to nurture their bilateral relations and King Birendra's visit to New Delhi is a welcome step in this direction. The first official contact between the monarch and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi should help the two leaders remove the irritants which have emerged in Indo-Nepalese relations. Differences are bound to remain but they should not be allowed to block the path of friendship. The Kingdom's recent brush with terrorism when bombs went off in Katmandu has led to some misunderstanding between the two countries. Nepal's concern over the bomb blasts is understandable and India is no less perturbed at terrorism, national as well as international. Katmandu, however, seems to be making things worse for itself by turning its wrath on the people living in the Tarai region. Even if it is true that Ram Raja Prasad Singh, said to be operating from Indian territory, was responsible for the Katmandu blasts, why should the public of Tarai be repressed? It is not a wise strategy for any government to turn hostile to any community or the inhabitants of any particular region. The people of Tarai have had a raw deal and lakhs of them are still waiting for Nepalese citizenship although they have been living in Nepal for generations. After the blasts, several of them have been arrested and even tortured. If their ancestry is traced, they may be of Indian origin but that should not stand in the way of their securing full citizenship.

It is in the long-term interest of Nepal and its monarchy that the democratic aspirations of the people should be met. Their struggle for democracy has been long. The so-called "partyless panchayat democracy" now in vogue can hardly be termed democracy. According to the Nepalese Constitution, the king is the fountainhead of all authority and the government hardly represents the people. This is the crux of the problem and the people of Tarai should not be made to suffer under the authoritarianism of the ruling elite.

Indo-Nepalese relations, however, can be strengthened in various directions. Nepal's "zone of peace" proposal need not stand in the way of Indo-Nepalese friendship although India may have its reservations on the proposal. The scope for more trade and economic cooperation is immense. It is India's hope that the royal visit will act as a catalyst in further strengthening relations between the two countries.

President Accepts Invitation To SARC Summit

BK250428 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Excerpt] The visiting Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr Faruq A. Chowdhury, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidency] in Islamabad this afternoon. He delivered an invitation to the president from President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of bangladesh for attending the SARC [South Asian Regional Cooperation] summit meeting due to be held in Dhaka from the 7th of December this year. The president accepted the invitation and assured of his cooperation to make the summit a success.

The Bangladesh foreign secretary also thanked the president and the people of Pakistan for their sympathies and assistance for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh.

Indian Official on Improving Communications Links

BK241040 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Indian communications secretary, Thomas A. Kora, arrived in Islamabad from Lahore this morning for talks with Pakistani officials on improving the telecommunications link between the two countries.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said that due to the immediate steps being taken to improve the telecommunications link between the two countries, the existing system will be converted into a semi-automatic one within the next 2 months.

The two countries will discuss linking major cities through the international dialing system. Initially, Pakistan's Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi will be linked with India's Delhi, Bombay, Lucknow, Calcutta, and Hyderabad.

The Indian communications secretary, who participated in the Lahore-Amritsar telecommunications link inauguration in Lahore yesterday, said telex and telegraph services will also be provided through this new link, in addition to exchanging television programs and newscasts.

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Power Pledged at IAEA Meeting

BK251536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated at the 29th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Authority in Vienna that it is committed to peaceful uses of atomic energy. Addressing the conference, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Munir Ahmed Khan, said that Pakistan's future economic development depends on atomic energy, as it is the only effective means to meet the acute shortage of power in the country.

Application of atomic methods in agriculture also have had a significant and positive impact on the country's economy.

AFP: Opposition Party Campaigns 'To Save Benazir'

AU251551 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] London, Sept 25 (AFP) — The main Pakistani opposition party said it was launching a campaign today "to save Benazir" Bhutto, president of opposition Pakistani People's Party (PPP), who is denied proper health care in Pakistan where she is under house arrest.

Miss Bhutto, who returned to Pakistan August 29 for her brother Shah Nawaz Bhutto's funeral after 19 months of self-imposed exile in London, is "in danger," the PPP said in a statement here. She is suffering from sight and hearing problems, according to government-designated doctors, and has not been allowed to see a physician of her choice, the statement said.

Miss Bhutto is the daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was executed 1979 by the military administration of Pakistani leader General Ziaul Haq.

The party said it would gather support from Western governments and political leaders to apply pressure on Pakistan for the "immediate and unconditional" release of Miss Hutto.

She is kept in "quasi solitary confinement" by more than 40 policemen in her house, and during the rare and brief visits by her family, a policewoman stands by taking notes, the PPP said.

At a tolerated public rally of the PPP in Pakistan, Miss Bhutto told supporters to steer clear of action that could raise tension with the government, which has promised to lift martial law by next January 1. If martial law, imposed after Gen. Zia's 1977 coup, were not lifted by then, she told party supporters they should then organize protest action.

DAWN: Opposition Leader on Ties With Soviet Union

GF241412 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Sep 85 p 10

[Excerpt] Karachi, Sept 18 — Mir Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, president of the banned Pakistan National Party, [PNP], has called for friendly relations with the Soviet Union, India, Afghanistan, Iran and other neighbouring countries for peace in the region and in the best interest of the people of Pakistan.

Speaking at the "Meet the Press" programme of the Karachi Press Club on Wednesday afternoon, he took serious exception to newspapers and leaders who termed his recent "friendly visit to the Soviet Union" a part of a "grand conspiracy" to dismember the country.

He once again denied reports that he had met the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and other Soviet Government leaders during his stay there. "Even if I had a meeting with Mr Gorbachev, it would have been an honour for myself and my country," Mr Bizenjo said in reply to a question. He deplored the attitude to criticise the leaders of smaller provinces whenever they visited a foreign country. Many leaders visited the West, but none of them was dubbed traitors or conspirators by the right-wing press, he added.

He was of the view that there was a permanent lobby of the vested interests in the country who tried to obstruct the promotion of friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union and other neighbouring countries.

He said certain newspapers misinterpreted his remarks about Pakistanis educated in communist countries, and declared that Pakistan could not afford to have unfriendly relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for long.

During the visit to the Soviet Union, he said, he met leading Soviet intellectuals and citizens and discussed matters of mutual interest. "I was on a private visit and under no obligation to brief any government functionary officially," the PNP president remarked.

He said that most of the important people he met were critical of the Pakistan Government's role in Afghanistan and did not fail to mention that USSR was assisting Pakistan by establishing a steel mill, the Guddu Thermal power plant, and other projects. He warned that the situation would deteriorate if Pakistan did not seek a political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Karachi Reports on Afghan Rebel Operations

BK251523 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have achieved a few military successes in Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Samangan Provinces bordering the Soviet Union.

They successfully attacked a brigade headquarters in Baghlan and inflicted heavy casualties on the Soviet-Karmal troops during their operations, seizing huge quantities of arms and ammunition. According to a report from Samangan Province, a battalion of the Karmal militia joined the mujahidin.

SRI LANKA

India's Bhandari Meets With Security Minister

BK260920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, now in Colombo, met the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali. He is scheduled to have a launcheon meeting with the Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene.

Before his departure for Colombo, Mr Bhandari said that he will discuss the modalities of the consolidated cease-fire with Mr Jayewardene. He said the cease-fire and an end to the killings of civilians will create the right atmosphere for resumption of negotiations. He reiterated that India is interested in a negotiated settlement of the island's ethnic issue.

Briefs

New Ambassador to Mongolia — Mr K. Newton Samarasinghe has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to the Mongolian People's Republic, in succession to Mr C. Mahendran, with residence in Beijing. [Text] [*Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 6 Sep 85 p 1 BK*]

Refugees Reach 60,000 Mark — The number of refugees in 9 districts has reached 60,000 according to the Ministry of Rahabilitation. There are 23,000 refugees in 42 camps in Trincomalee District. Around 11,835 are being housed in camps and other protected places in Anuradhapura District. Of this number, only 1,174 are in camps at Senapura, officials reported. [Summary] [*Colombo SUN in English 6 Sep 85 p 1 BK*]

New Oil Export Outlet Planned Northeast of Khark

GF260558 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 26-27 Sep 85 p 1

[Excerpts] Iraq said its warplanes attacked Khark Island again yesterday in the latest of a series of raids reported to have caused heavy damage to Iran's main oil export terminal. Gulf sources said the raids have sharply cut the loading capacity at Khark to around 750,000 barrels per day from a design capacity of over 6.5 million bpd.

Sources said Iran is setting up a new oil export outlet north-east of Khark which would be more easily protected by air defences co-ordinated from the Iranian port and Air Force station at Bushehr.

Foreign Attaches Briefed on War Details

LD251427 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA — Military attaches of foreign countries in Iran were briefed at the Army Joint Staff Command Headquarters in Tehran Tuesday [24 September] on documents of Iraqi aggression against Iran.

Documents evidencing Iraq's malicious expulsion of a group of about 50,000 Muslim Iraqis of Iranian origin as well as other documents in proof of Iraqi military provocations along the Iran-Iraq borders and other hostile operations by Iraq led multilingual pirate radio stations against Iran were presented to foreign diplomats in the meeting.

The provocative support of the superpowers for the Iraqi regime against Iran, and Iraq's unilateral scrapping of the 1975 Algiers Agreement and its invasion of Iran on September 22, 1980, were among other topics brought up in the meeting.

An Iranian military commander in the session said "The Iraqi aggression was launched by 12 well-equipped armoured infantry and mechanized divisions comprising as many as 384,000 military personnel and a reserve force of 300,000."

He added that in the first three months of the war the Iraqi invading troops had occupied border areas, various Iranian cities and the cities of Khorramshahr, Qasr-e Shirin, Naft-e Shah, Mehran and the town of Bostan in three provinces in Iran, and besieged the city of Abadan and advanced towards the town of Hamidiyeh in the western outskirts of Ahvaz, the provincial capital of Khuzestan Province.

"After recapturing the port city of Khorramshahr by the Iranian Muslim combatants and set-back of the Iraqi Army there, the Iraqi regime claimed it would withdraw its troops back to the international borders in ten days' time whereas the claim was nothing but an empty lie" the Iranian official said.

The Iraqi Army of occupation sufferred 16,500 in casualties, lost many tanks, armoured personnel carriers and heavy military weaponry in addition to some warplanes and helicopter gunships in the wake of a losing battle in Khorramshahr. 19,000 Iraqi troops were taken capitive and 5,480 square kilometers of Iranian territory was recaptured besides the port city of Khorramshahr and the town of Al-Hawayzah.

Referring to the aggravating effects of the support for Iraq by the superpowers and reactionary governments of the region, the official said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are funneling their revenues from 300,000 bpd of their oil sale to the ruling government in Baghdad. He added Baghdad supporters were also providing it with their port facilities.

The Iranian military commander noted that Jordan, Egypt and Sudan under Numayri's government had sent military personnel to help the Iraqi regime.

"Now the superpowers which have not benefited from the war, are trying to impose a disgraceful peace upon Iran so that in the meanwhile Baghdad may reorganize its Army and launch another invasion of the Islamic Iran re-equip with a massive armament" said the Iranian Army commander.

Khamene'i Expresses Concern Over Tripoli Fighting

LD251652 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Damascus, Sept. 25, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran has voiced concern over fighting in Tripoli, Lebanon by dispatching an envoy to Damascus with a message for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of political affairs, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, visited President al-Asad in Damascus Tuesday [24 September] and handed him a message from Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In the meeting latest developments in the region, particularly the recent clashes among rival militias in Tripoli, were discussed.

In the message, President Khamene'i has expressed concern over the Tripoli clashes and called on Al-Asad to expert efforts to calm the fighting.

President al-Asad told the Iranian envoy that the fighting was weakening Muslim forces and that Syria was seeking calm in Lebanon so all Muslim and progressive forces could turn against Israel.

Sheykh ol-Eslam also met for talks with Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar'. Syrian deputy foreign minister, Rashid al-Gilani and Iran's charge d'affairs in Damascus met Syria's vice-president for political affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Deputies Call For Musavi To Retain Premiership

LD251439 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25 IRNA — Majlis (parliament) deputies Tuesday [23 September] called for the retention of Mir Hoseyn Musavi as prime minister and said the choice was also that of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

President Khamene'i is to nominate a prime minister this month and there has been considerable speculation about his choice.

Majlis Deputy Akbar Hamid Zadeh told the assembly that Musavi's cabinet has been successful in coping with the current problems. He addressed himself to the president calling on him to take into account the view of Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Montazeri and Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani when choosing a prime minister. Tafresh's Deputy Gholam Reza Haydari said the president must take into account imam's view.

Ghasem Mehrzad Sadiqi, deputy from Salmas said the majority of the people have accepted the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and the imam has clearly supported Musavi's cabinet on various occasions.

The 1364 (1985-86) foreign exchange budget bill was passed after debates on a report by the parliamentary budget committee.

AFP: Two Bahais Executed, Situation 'Deteriorates'

AU231917 Paris AFP in English 1908 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Hofheim-Taunus, West Germany, Sept 23 (AFP) — Iranian authorities executed two members of the outlawed Bahai sect last month, while another 741 remained in jail, a Bahai association said today in a communique released in this southwestern German town. It said the situation of Iranian Bahais was continuing to deteriorate, and that many were being tortured in jail.

Commentary Views Economy Since Revolution

GF240844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Untitled commentary by the research group of the Central News Unit]

[Text] The third day of war week, which has been called the day of the economic crusade, is an occasion to review briefly our country's economic situation in the years since the Islamic revolution, especially since the onset of the war.

In view of the treason committed by those linked with the past regime, the fact that much of the country's wealth, including hard currency and valuable items, was taken out of the country, it was expected that our country, which had just gone through a revolution, undergo an economic crisis and the country's financial situation would be difficult to stabilize.

However, two major elements prevented this. First, the people's participation in economic matters resulted i increased production. This in turn caused the creation of organized bodies to guide and coordinate these activities, such as the construction crusade.

Second, there was a change in the oil market. Because of the Iranian revolution, the oil revenues of oil-producing countries, including our own, increased. Islamic Iran, by lowering its oil exports to the world market -- which had peaked out at more than 6 million bpd during the previous regime -- dropped to one third of this amount. This caused changes in the oil market and increased the price of oil to more than $30 per barrel.

The flow of this revenue into the country solved some of Iran's economic problems. However, the revolutionary act by the Islamic students of taking American hostages in the den of spies brought about the imposition of economic sanctions which, to a certain extent, ended the economic boom which was the direct result of increased oil revenues.

These economic pressures caused the country to start on a path toward self-sufficiency. The need to continue this trend increased after the start of the Iraqi-imposed war, because all the world aggressors rushed to help Iraq in various fields -- political, military, and economic.

Although there were political differences among our country's leaders, because of the presence of the liberals in high places and the plots of warring factions against the regime, improvements in the self-sufficiency campaign faced major difficulties. After achieving political stability and rejecting puppet elements among the leaders, we saw in the country the establishment of a better organized economic system.

Keeping in mind that the results of the war would have an important effect on Islam throughout the world and on the dignity of our nation, meeting the needs of the war fronts became a major consideration in Iran's economic planning. For this reason the country's entire economic establishment mobilized to meet the needs of the war. Innovations and inventions increased rapidly. The ministries carried out most of their activities based on meeting the needs of the war fronts. All of the nation's economic institutions contributed to the needs of the fronts.

The construction crusade took care of the fronts' engineering needs, along with the engineering units of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces, and is now considered one of most successful bodies in the country.

Meanwhile, Iranian factories became the scene for innovations in supplying military and other hardware to the fronts. These innovations have enabled our Armed Forces to stand firm on the war fronts and in the entire country while confronting plots hatched by the whole world against the interests of Islamic Iran. Thus our people continue their freedom-seeking war.

After the war we considered the villages' problems as the next focus of the country's economic policies. Villages house half of our nation's population. Despite many problems, including the great amount of work to be done and the destruction of village housing -- elements which prevented completion of the work at the desired speed and prevented basic work from being done -- the amount of help given to the villages by the government in so short a time shows an economic and social trend toward helping the villages.

All things considered, to measure the success of the government in the economic field, one must remember the circumstances existing in our country. Iran is faced with a war against world aggressors and their announced and unannounced sanctions against us, while we fight a war imposed by Iraq, which has half

our population and major financial backing from reactionary Arab states. However, we must also keep in mind that Iraq lost some $30 billion of its foreign currency reserves at the start of war. Now Iraq owes some $40 billion and is thinking about securing even more loans. Therefore, we have to consider these facts and decide whether or not Iran's general economic situation has suffered. This is a question to which every fair person would give a negative answer.

In any case, the major experience gained during this short but decisive period should be an example to the economic planners of the country. This experience shows that to gain financial independence, basic steps should be taken to establish a healthy economy based on non-oil exports and reliance on the never-ending power of the country's masses. Now, seven years after the success of the Islamic revolution and the need for stability, there is no excuse for further delay.

Free Voice of Iran on Economy

GF231930 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 500 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] The first effects of a severe shortage of foreign reserves following the bombings of Khark Island and the reduction in Iranian oil exports has surfaced. We received a report this morning from our correspondents in Tehran which notes that due to the bombings of Khark Island, the regime is now faced with a severe shortage of foreign reserves. As of today, the $300 allowance for passengers going abroad has been stopped. The regime has put into effect a plan to stop the extensive number of trips abroad by people.

People have rushed to markets to purchase goods, and the price of essential goods has suddenly shot up to extreme levels. Hoarding is taking place in Tehran and several large Iranian cities. Major distributors, bazaaris, and merchants are not offering goods to the market.

According to this report, groups of capitalists withdrew their deposits from banks yesterday and today. The regime of the Islamic Republic, as a result of the drop in oil exports, has again asked the Central Bank for a loan. Even though gasoline and heating oil are available, it is expected that artificial shortages will surface in the next few days. We advise people to start stockpiling some food at home in order to avoid the coming shortages. However, avoid stocks of gasoline since it involves the risks of fires and explosions. We strongly advise people to take their money out of the banks in order to keep it safe from a regime which needs cash. People, take your money out of the banks so that it cannot be taken by the regime. The regime is facing a severe shortage of money. Should the situation continue, prices will go up even further in the coming days. You should purchase essential goods and food now.

Because the bombing of Khark Island has resulted in a drop in Iranian oil exports and a severe shortage of foreign reserves, informed sources in Tehran have advised our correspondents that the regime of the Islamic Republic has put into effect an emergency economic plan.

New Unit To Coordinate Donations for War Effort

LD250230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of the mobilization forces unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and of the headquarters for attracting and organizing popular assistance [for the war effort], in a news conference discussed programs for attracting and organizing popular donations for the war fronts, and said: In view of the important role of popular donations to the war fronts and their material and spiritual benefits to the fighters, under the guidance of Ayatollah Montazeri, a headquarters in charge of attracting and organizing popular assistance has recently been formed under the aegis of mobilization units. From now on, all donations from the public, various organizations, departments, and businesses, whether in cash or kind, will be sent to the fronts under the supervision and through the coordination of this headquarters.

He added: From now on, the bases set up in war zones will communicate the needs of the fighters to headquarters which, through its branches in different provinces, will deliver donations in an organized manner and in consideration of the needs of the Islamic fighters in each region. During War Week, an extensive program has been set up to deliver those goods and materials needed on the fronts. For instance, 365 truckloads of gifts donated by the people of Gilan will be sent to the war fronts under the supervision of the Friday imam of Rasht.

Iraq To Propose United Nations Resolve War Issue

GF250839 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0720 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Sep (WAM) — Iraq intends to present a proposal to the UN General Assembly providing for the UN Security Council to deal permanently with the problem of the Iraq-Iran war until a solution to the conflict is found.

This came in a statement by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, published in the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* today. He referred to the proposal by the UN secretary general that the UN Security Council deal with a number of difficult international problems on a permanent basis until they are solved.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique Reports Attack on Sumar

LD251601 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants launched a limited attack Wednesday against Iraqi positions in Sumar area at 01:00 (21:30 GMT Tuesday), said the Joint Staff communique Wednesday. In the three hour battle that erupted between the two sides more than 65 Iraqi troops were killed and four of their tanks, three ammunition depots and 13 positions destroyed, the communique said. Earlier an IRNA reporter in Sumar had estimated the Iraqi dead at one hundred.

In other parts of the western front confrontations continued between the two sides with the Iraqis suffering casualties and the combatants taking booty including some gas masks.

In the northern front, the combatants rained artillery fire on Iraqi supply centers and destroyed a number of their vehicles in one parking area, the communique said. Reporting a summary of action in the past 24 hours, Communique Number 2239 said three Iraqi tanks, one bulldozer and one ammunition depot were destroyed in the area.

It said artillery duels continued in the south with Iranian gunners halting the movement of Iraqi units and interrupting their engineering activities. The port city of Abadan sustained damages when Iraqi long range artillery shelled the city.

Najat-e Iran Sees Critical Situation in Gulf

GF241510 (Clandestine) Radio Najat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Excerpts] According to political observers, the current situation in the Persian Gulf is so critical and dangerous that there is a great chance that the superpowers will intervene to control the situation. According to these experts, repeated Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil installations, the seizure of commercial ships by Iran and Iraq [as heard], and a notable drop in the oil income of the Islamic regime have forced the Islamic Republic's leadership to talk about the possibility of closing the Strait of Hormuz again.

Although political observers believe that closing the strait by the mullahs would be a form of suicide -- considering the unsettled situation in Iran -- the possibility of the mullahs attempting suicide cannot be ignored. They would burn the remainder of the national wealth and destroy it if they were no longer able to maintain their rule, rather than hand over the country to a nationalist and legal regime.

Iraqi, Iranian Communists Hold Paris News Conference

PM231518 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 18 Sep 85 p 9

[Francoise Germain-Robin report: "Iraq-Iran — Communists From Both Countries Against the War"]

[Text] Representatives of the Iraqi Communist Party, the Iranian Tudeh Party, and the Iranian Feda'iyan-e Khalq Movement (majority faction), who were in Paris for the *L'HUMANITE* festival, gave a joint press conference yesterday to condemn the continuation of the conflict which has ravaged their countries for 6 years, and also to condemn the increased repression in both Iraq and Iran.

This press conference given by the communist parties of the two warring countries is an event in itself, and a more than symbolic demonstration of the fraternity and common struggle for peace which unites communists -- for which the *L'HUMANITE* festival provides a special forum each year. Each of the three parties represented painted a picture of the effects of the war and explained how the democrats' struggle for peace and democracy is being organized in Iraq and Iran.

Speaking on behalf of the Iraq Communist Party, Hadi Zuhayr reported increasingly large-scale desertions by Iraqi soldiers — 10,000 deserters over the past 3 months of increased repression: "At least 15 deserters are executed each day, and the executions take place in public, in suburbs and villages, to frighten the population. More than 1,000 soldiers opposed to the war have been executed in this way over the past 3 months."

In an increasingly militarized country (two-thirds of the work force in at the front), the struggle for peace has become inextricably linked to the communists' battle against the regime and for democracy.

The same process linking the escalation of the war with repression was exposed, in Iran's case, by Hedi Fatapour, member of the Politburo of the Iranian Feda'iyan-e Khalq (majority faction). He recalled that 1 million Iranians have been killed or wounded in 6 years and another 3 million made homeless, that the government was reduced to forcibly enlisting young people fleeing conscription, and that there had been increasing numbers of demonstrations against the war in Iran in the past year.

Tudeh Party representative Hoseyn Nazair stressed the fact that the Iraq-Iran conflict provided U.S. imperialism with an opportunity to strengthen its military presence in the region, increasing the two countries' dependence on foreign countries and multinational companies.

Soviet, Karmal Forces Fail To Take Rebel-Held Dam

LD251723 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] London, Sept. 25 IRNA — The London-based AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY said Thursday that Afghan mujahidin have frustrated an attempt of Soviet-Karmal troops to take the control of the Chak-e Vardak dam near Kabul. The agency said the area was under the control of the mujahidin.

It quoted mujahidin sources as saying that Soviet helicopters bombed the area on Sept 9 in an effort to seize control of the dam and the power station. Two mujahids and 11 civilians were martyred in the fighting.

Chak-e Vardak dam has been under the control of mujahidin for the last five years and electricity lines to Kabul have been severed.

KEYHAN Interviews Afghan Mujahidin Leader

GF251120 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Sep 85, p 19

[Excerpts] 'Esmatollah Mas'udi, in charge of Qandahar's unified front, took part in an exclusive interview with *KEYHAN* and discussed his views on the latest developments in th struggles of the Afghan people, the coalition of the country's Islamic bodies and parties, the Geneva conference, the morale of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the military situation of the Afghan mujahidin.

Answering our question on the general situation of the mujahidin and their struggles against the occupiers, he said: With regard to

Afghanistan, 99 percent of whose population is Muslim, I do not think there is anyone in the world who does not know the situation of the Muslims in that country and their brave struggles against the Soviet occupation army.

Of course, it is natural that our power has increased since the struggles began because the courage, acts of bravery, and continued struggle against the Soviets and their internal mercenaries have increased our people's experiences. At present, the Afghan mujahidin are better off in terms of arms and ammunition, and political awareness. At first they were fighting with very old guns that were left behind by our fathers; but today, thanks to the guns and weaponry taken as booty from the Soviet occupiers, they are in better shape militarily. Today, our people are also politically aware of all the plots and tricks hatched by the eastern colonialists, who are trying to get out of this death trap at any cost.

Today, we are aware that the Soviets and their internal mercenaries, who have not been able to achieve their evil goals, are engaged in a political game by organizing a conference in Geneva to find a way out for themselves. They are trying to get out of the trap set for them by the brave people of Afghanistan, but our people and our fighters and mujahidin will never fall into this trap. Our people know well those who are representing the Afghan people at this conference. Until the day the Soviet soldiers entered Afghanistan with full force, the United Nations never thought about this poor oppressed people. How can it now meddle in this affair under pressure?

Mas'udi then commented on the existing political parties in Afghanistan, the recent coalition formed among several of them, and also the effect of this coalition on the Afghan Muslims movement. He said: The parties that have an important role in Afghanistan are the Islamic Hekmatyar party, made up mostly of our Sunni brothers, the Islamic party, the purely 'Alawite sect, the Islamic Congress, the Movement of the Islamic Revolution, the Unified Front of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, the Nasr organization, the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, and the Islamic Movement. All of these are busy fighting against the Russians.

The coalition which was recently formed comprises the four main Islamic bodies in Afghanistan which are the Unified Front of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, the Nasr organization of Afghanistan, the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, and the Guardians of the Afghan Crusade.

Mas'udi then answered a question on the Unified Front of the Afghan Islamic revolution and their position in the general struggle in that country. He said: The Unified Front is made up of the Raja' organization, the Islamic Feda'iyan, the Feda'yan of the Islamic ummah, the Islamic Movement and the Towhid Maktab [school of monotheism]. These organizations were all working separately before, but because of the people's wishes and the need for unity and solidarity, the five parties joined one another under the name of the unified front, and I believe that the only road to salvation and the freedom of the Afghan people is this same unity.

He talked about the coalition formed among the parties and said: Of course, this coalition should have been formed long ago. There should be even a higher unified Islamic front as one organization and one front against the Soviet occupiers and their internal mercenaries.

Another issue that is of prime importance is that of armed struggle. Maps and military information are at the disposal of the mujahidin and those on the front lines so that they can see the best ways to confront the enemy. Keeping in mind the small amount of arms that the mujahidin possess against the varied weapons that the Russian occupiers have -- even weaponry that they have not managed to sell anywhere, such as chemical weapons, napalm bombs, and cluster bombs which are fired at long range -- the question of defense is an important one.

Mas'udi added: It is interesting to note that the Soviets do not use infantry troops in their attacks. They only fire from long distance using rockets, grenades and katyushas, and, of course, they use their Air Force.

Another issue that our Afghan brothers are faced with is that they need enlightenment in terms of politics and ideology. In this regard, we are facing problems. There are even some areas of Afghanistan where there is no one to explain ideological issues to the people. Unfortunately, those who can help in this matter are not making any moves. This has to be taken care of as well.

The mujahidin leader then spoke about the present situation of the mujahidin and compared this with the early days of their struggle. He said: Our situation has improved in terms of weaponry, compared with the early days. Then, our brothers were using the most out-dated weapons, but as the years passed, our brave brothers attacked bases, barracks and military posts. A number of our soldier brothers who had been forced into military service also joined the mujahidin, and in this way the mujahidin gained access to a great quantity of weapons. For example, in Qandahar they are in better shape than they were before.

In the first days our brothers fought only in the mountains and forests or in other remote areas, but today our mujahidin are in control of Qandahar and are present in the streets and roads and in the town squares. They control all movement and search all suspicious actions and persons. The government has no power whatsoever to drive them out.

With regard to political issues, our brothers are so aware of the situation that they are aware of events such as the Geneva conference, and in this manner they defuse all the plots of the Eastern and Western enemies. The mujahidin know well that only by force and armed struggle, with the help of God and the solidarity of the people, will they be able to free the oppressed people of Afghanistan from the clutches of the aggressors and the occupiers.

Mas'udi stressed the fact that the struggles of the Afghan people are independent, free from Eastern or Western influence. He said: Our slogan is freedom, independence, and an Islamic republic. It is obvious that we are against both Eastern and Western ideologies. There are some circles who falsely say that once we are free of the Eastern occupiers, we shall fall into the arms of the Westerners. They are totally wrong because we are Muslims and our politics are Islamic; we want the rule of the Koran. All

Muslims of the world know that the crimes committed by the Eastern superpower against the oppressed people here are repeated elsewhere by the Western superpower. In effect, both these powers loot the resources of the oppressed people together.

The mujahidin leader also commented on the "Flame" group and said: These are communists who favor China. Their aim is to install Chinese Communist policies here, and of course this has no support in Afghanistan.

Therefore, anyone meddling in Afghan affairs has no support at all, whether it be Pakistan or groups such as the Communist "Flame." Our people want the rule of the Koran.

Mas'udi concluded by commenting on the morale of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan and said: The morale of the Russian soldiers is very low. For example, in Chardaneh, where the Soviets and regulars have a base, the Russians have 10,000 troops. Even with this large number they are unable to advance.

The only thing they can do is fire heavy artillery shells into mujahidin positions day and night while their infantry units are unable to move one step. The Soviets themselves admit that one Afghan guerrilla is able to fight against 10,000 Soviet troops, and this in itself shows their weak morale.

Mas'udi then commented on the people's cooperation with the mujahidin and said: The cooperation of the people with our brothers is at a high level and is perhaps the one secret of our victories. With the cooperation of the people whose sons are fighting on the fronts, we have managed to gain impressive successes. When our forces enter the streets, they are welcomed by the people, even children under 8 years old.

He added: In some areas the occupiers use rooftops to control the movements of the mujahidin, but with the cooperation of the people, who knock holes in the walls enabling the mujahidin to pass undetected, even this plot has been foiled.

Another sign of the regulars' weak morale is that according to the cook at the Pandahar military base, in the old days they needed 1,200 kg of meat a day to feed the soldiers but now they only need 8 kg. This means, every day and at every opportunity, the government troops escape and join the ranks of the mujahidin.